

Appl. No. : 09/690,002
Filed : October 16, 2000

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant apologizes for the unintentional failure to respond to the Section 102 rejection based on Nielsen and the section 103a rejection based on Nielsen. This failure was, as suggested by the detailed action, an oversight.

Since the action indicates that the amendment was already entered, this additional paper merely responds to the rejections based on Nielsen.

Basically, Nielsen does in fact teach a system which enables classifying mail as being junk mail by deleting the e-mail and indicating that the deletion is a "delete as junk mail" see Figure 4B and specifically the buttons 425 and 427. Alternatively, the user can simply delete e-mail using the buttons 427; this just deletes the e-mail and does not indicate whether the e-mail is junk mail or not. This is further evident from Column 11, where the description of Figure 10 describes that the delete as junk mail process operates when the button 425 is pressed, but does not operate at all when the button 427 is pressed.

Claim 14 requires a first control that selects deleting the e-mail "while indicating that said e-mail is spam" and the second control that selects deleting the e-mail "while indicating that said e-mail is not spam". Nielsen does have a delete as spam control, but does not disclose a delete as not spam control. Therefore, Nielsen clearly does not suggest the limitations of claims 14 and 16 which require not only delete as spam, but also a different control which deletes while indicating that the message is not spam. Effectively, Nielsen only teaches half of the puzzle, how to delete while indicating that

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the message is in fact undesirable. It teaches nothing about deleting while indicating that the message is not undesirable.

Therefore, claims 14 and 16 should be completely allowable for these reasons.

Claim 15 was rejected over Nielsen in view of Leeds. However, claim 15 should be allowable by virtue of its dependency on claim 14, the reasons for allowance of which have been discussed in detail above.

Applicant again apologizes for anyone extra work caused to the Patent Office by the previous unintentional failure to respond to these rejections. A notice on the merits is requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

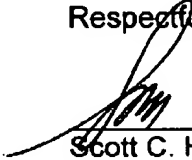
For all of these reasons, it is respectfully suggested that all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is hence respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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